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# Give Thanks for Thoreau

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**I**N LIFE WITHOUT PRINCIPLE Henry David Thoreau makes the following statement: "Do not hire a man who does your work for money, but him who does it for love of it." Thoreau feels that a working man's aim should not be to make a living or hold a good job, but rather to perform well a certain task. He also states that all roads to money lead downward and that the worker who gets nothing but money from his job cheats both himself and his employer.

Thoreau's statements are indeed impressive and thought-provoking. Such lofty ideals should be given considerable thought by every young person seeking a place for himself in the world. To the modern youth, these ideals may seem completely impractical and even a little queer. As a person, Thoreau was unconventional and individualistic. One student even expressed the opinion that he was a hermit, a misfit and a failure.

I admit that in the hurry-scurry world of business today it might appear foolish to try to live by Thoreau's ideals. I do not advocate that one should try to do so, but I do think that the principles of Thoreau show a great, thoughtful mind; and his courage in living up to those ideals shows strength of character that we modern, practical persons know little of. Thoreau's opinions, though infeasible in practice, are valuable in theory and should not be taken lightly. People will continue to feel that it is foolish to preach that we should suppress desire for material gain and work only for the love of working. There will be many who say, "It just won't work," but perhaps a few will think again and say, "Why won't it work? How do we know until we try it?"

The world may never live by Thoreau's ideals, but if by expressing them he causes people to consider their worth, he certainly can not be called a failure.

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